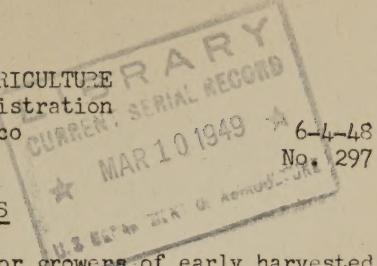


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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
State College, New Mexico



WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

GRAIN PRICE-SUPPORT PROGRAMS SET - As protection for growers of early harvested wheat, interim terminal loan rates on 1948-crop wheat have been announced by the Department of Agriculture, C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee, said today. Because of an increase in wheat parity, the rates are 17 cents a bushel higher than the final terminal loan rates on 1947-crop wheat.

Final rates for 1948-crop wheat will reflect 90 percent of parity prices as of July 1, 1948. Any difference between the interim terminal rates and the final rates will be adjusted upon delivery of grain to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

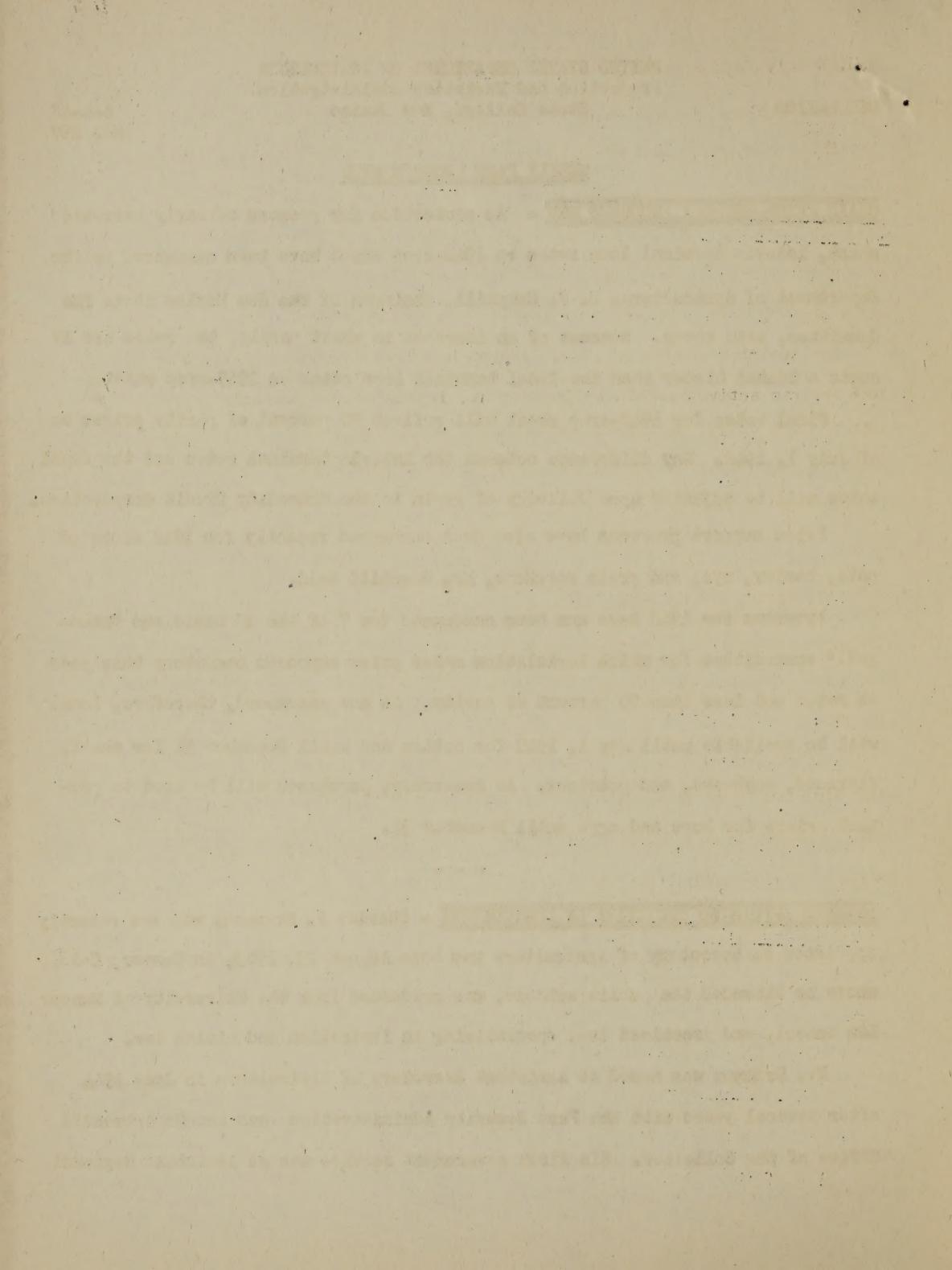
Price support programs have also been announced recently for 1948 crops of oats, barley, rye, and grain sorghums, Mr. Hemphill said.

Programs for 1948 have now been announced for 7 of the 20 basic and "Steagall" commodities for which legislation makes price supports mandatory this year at rates not less than 90 percent of parity. As now announced, therefore, loans will be available until May 1, 1949 for cotton and until December 31 for wheat, flaxseed, soybeans, and potatoes. As necessary, purchases will be used to protect prices for hogs and eggs until December 31.

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BRANNAN APPOINTED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE - Charles F. Brannan, who was recently appointed as Secretary of Agriculture was born August 23, 1903, in Denver, Colo., where he attended the public schools, was graduated from the University of Denver Law School, and practiced law, specializing in irrigation and mining law.

Mr. Brannan was named as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in June 1944 after several years with the Farm Security Administration and the Department's Office of the Solicitor. His first government service was as Assistant Regional



Attorney for the Resettlement Administration in Denver in 1935. In 1937, he was appointed Regional Attorney for the Department's Office of the Solicitor, also in Denver.

In November 1941, Mr. Brannan was appointed Regional Director of FSA for the States of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana, with headquarters at Denver; in April 1944, he was named Assistant Administrator, FSA in Washington.

As Assistant Secretary, Mr. Brannan has been in charge of agricultural policy and program activities of the Department, including the preparation of recommendations for future long-range programs to succeed those in effect before and during the war. He has also headed up the Department's activities in the food and feed conservation program.

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GRASS AND COWS AND CONSERVATION - Dairying is not a conservation practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program but soil conservation is an essential part of a good dairy program, says Santiago Marquez, Member of the New Mexico PMA Committee.

He explains that good pastures which usually go along with successful dairying also mean good conservation. Grass is one of the best crops for holding the soil. Grass is an economical feed for cows. For this reason dairying and conservation do go together.

How this works out is shown in the experience of B. E. Gardner of Spotsylvania, Virginia. He has built up a successful dairy farm by putting his land in condition so that it will keep on producing. The grass protects the land and the lime and phosphate applied to the land has made the protective grass cover possible.

Mr. Gardner bought his farm of 218 acres in 1934. At that time neighbors commented that he would be unable to make a living because the land was so poor. When he moved on the farm he had 2 cows, 2 calves, 22 chickens, 2 brood sows and 6 pigs. There were only 5 acres of cropland and no pasture.



By lining up a good conservation program under the Agricultural Conservation Program he has built up this farm until now he is milking an average of 27 good cows from which he sells 80 gallons of milk a day.

By seeding of grass and legumes, applying lime and phosphate, and using other good conservation practices, Mr. Gardner has built a farm from which he can continue to make a good living. The farm -- if conservation practices are continued -- will keep on producing food. And, according to Mr. Marquez, that's the important contribution being made by PMA's conservation program. "It's the dividends coming back from the investment made in conservation through the Agricultural Conservation Program."

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HOW DEEP DO GRASS ROOTS GO? - Deep-rooted plants have an advantage of being able to go a long way for water and plant foods. For this reason, says A. D. Woofter, Member of the New Mexico PMA Committee, they have an important place in meeting many farm conservation problems. Deep-rooted pasture plants have an advantage over the shallow-rooted ones.

With this in mind agronomists of the West Virginia Experiment Stations set out to determine how much of the roots of several grasses important in conservation were to be found at different depths.

The grasses studied were smooth brome, orchard grass, kentucky bluegrass, timothy and Deer's tongue. The different depths at which measurements were taken were from the surface of the ground to 3 inches deep; from 3 to 6 inches; from 6 to 9; 9 to 12; and 12 to 18 inches. The studies were made on one acre plots.

Bluegrass with its shallow-root system, had about 1125 pounds of roots to the acre in the top 3 inches. In the 3-to-6 inch layer, there were about 35 pounds. The amount dwindled down to a little more than 3 pounds of roots in an acre at the 12-to-18 inch depth.



Smooth brome showed considerable contrast. In the top 3 inches there were slightly more than 715 pounds of roots. But in the next 3 inches there were 200 pounds. In the layer from 12-to-18 inches deep there were over 105 pounds of roots...about 32 times as many roots in that area as bluegrass.

Orchard grass was in between these two. Timothy had the lowest amount of roots in the top 3 inches but slightly more than Kentucky bluegrass at the 12-to-18 inch depth. Deer's tongue had nearly 4,500 pounds of roots in the top 3 inches; dropped to about 350 pounds in the next 3 inches, and to 16 pounds at the 12-to-18 inch level.

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STOCK-WATER DEVELOPMENTS SAVE SOIL - On much of the Western rangeland, the construction of a watering place for cattle or sheep is one of the most important soil and water conservation practices. C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico Agricultural Conservation Program Committee points out that it does two things:

- (1) It gives greater protection to the vegetative cover to protect and hold the soil and helps to hold the needed moisture on the range.

- (2) It reduces trailing and trampling which increase the erosion hazard.

Dams and ponds also check run-off and resulting erosion. With more watering places, livestock graze the range more evenly. They are not forced to overgraze the area around the watering places and then trail along distance between water and feed.

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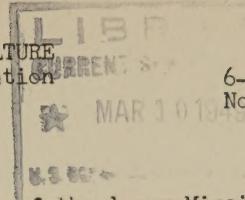


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NEW MEXICO

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

HOW MANY FARMS DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI? - Silt measurements of the lower Mississippi River show that 2 million tons of topsoil are dumped into the Gulf for every day of the year. That is 730 million tons a year. The figures are cited by A. D. Woofter, member of the New Mexico PMA committee, to illustrate the seriousness of the erosion problem. It would take around 8,333 ten ton trucks every hour or 139 every minute of the year to move this much soil.

To illustrate this, Mr. Woofter points out that an inch of topsoil from an acre of land weighs between 140 and 150 tons. This means that enough soil to cover about an acre and a half of land is dumped into the Gulf of Mexico every tick of the watch. Harvested cropland divided among all the people in the United States comes out about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres per person.

This means that every two seconds more than an inch of soil has been skimmed off somebody's  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres. This adds up to an inch of topsoil from 13,000 acres in a day. Then, too, Mr. Woofter points out, the Colorado, the Columbia, and the many other rivers in the country are carrying away their share of the nation's topsoil.

One of the big jobs of the Agricultural Conservation Program, he explains, is to keep that soil out of our rivers and to hold it back on the farms of the country to continue producing the food and fiber needed for an increasing population. Through the program individual farmers on their own farms are helped to carry out soil and water conservation practices which check erosion and keep the soil in place.

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MANY FARMERS NEED CONSERVATION HELP - All citizens of the country share the responsibility of conserving the Nation's soil and water resources, because many farmers are not able to finance the needed conservation work on their farms, says Santiago Marquez, member of the New Mexico PMA committee.



Even in 1944, he points out, nearly a third of the Nation's farms each grew less than \$1,000 worth of products. Nearly 60 percent turned out less than \$2,000 worth of products. Nearly three-fourths grew less than \$3,000 worth of products. The operators of these farms took in much less cash than these indicated figures—and still had to pay their production costs. In 1944, the crops of more than 385,000 farmers failed on 10,297,172 acres. The figures are from the 1945 census.

On a small farm, the Farmers Home Administration estimates a farm family needs about \$1,500 gross farm income (including the value of products that are used at home and the rental value of the house) to meet expenses. This is based on studies made in 1947. This gross farm income might include about \$908 in cash and about \$558 worth of products grown from home use. The \$908 would go to pay farm operating costs of \$476 and cash family living costs of \$432.

A recent survey also shows that many farmers do not carry out conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program because they are not able to bear the financial burden of their share of the cost.

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FARM TENANCY DECLINING, SAYS BAE — Tenants operated a little more than a fourth of the Nation's farms in 1947, according to a Bureau of Agricultural Economics survey. The figure of 26.9 percent, representing tenant-operated farms, compares with the 31.7-percent tenancy shown by the 1945 Census of Agriculture. Each year since the peak of 42.4 percent in 1930, the proportion of tenancy has declined. The figures are based on interviews with 15,000 farmers.

The survey also indicates that somewhat less farm land was operated under lease — 21.6 percent in 1947 compared with the 1945 figure of 22.1 percent. At the same time, the proportion of land operated by part owners increased from 32 to 36 percent, and that operated by full owners and managers declined from 45 to 42 percent.



According to the survey, considerable land is owned by farm operators but is rented to others. In 1947, land was rented to someone else by 14.5 percent of the full-owner operators, 8.9 percent of the part owners, 8.9 percent of the managers, and 2.3 percent of the tenants.

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CHINA EXPECTS RECORD WHEAT CROP - China's first official estimate is for a record wheat crop this year amounting to 965 million bushels. High yields have increased the output above the average of 821 million bushels for the early thirties.

Barley production in China is estimated at about 365 million bushels, the largest crop since 1936 and a little higher than average. The oats crop may be 54 million bushels, somewhat below the average of 60 million.

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WHERE ARE OUR NEXT MEALS COMING FROM? - The question "where is our next meal coming from" can be seriously asked by rich and poor alike, says W. L. Martin, member of the New Mexico FMA committee.

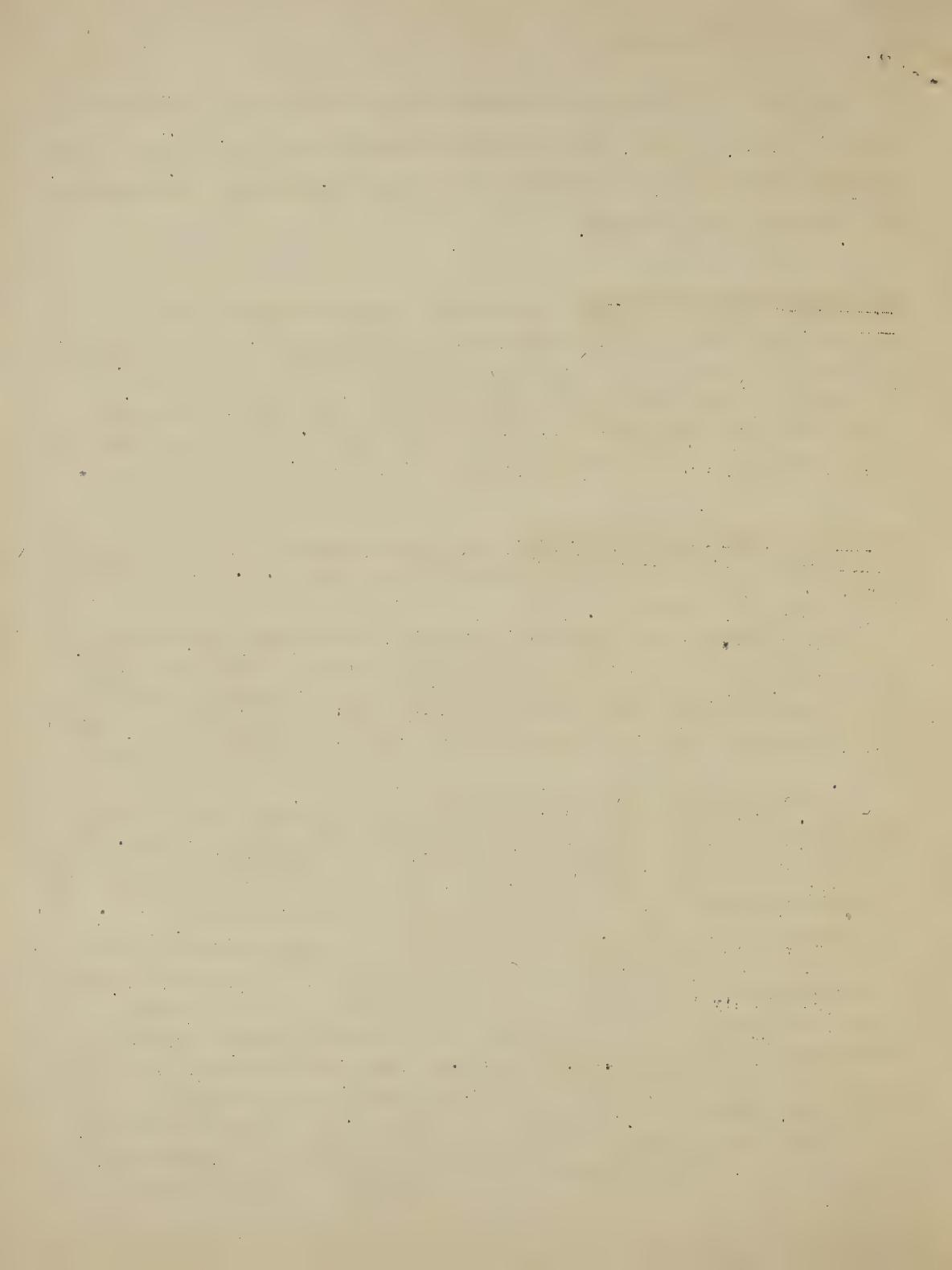
With the exception of seafood, he points out, all our meals come from the land. How good they are and how adequate depends on what farmers do with their soil. The nation's Agricultural Conservation Program is based on a general recognition that we are faced with a serious problem of keeping the land in condition so that it will continue to turn out adequate meals for today, tomorrow and the years to come.

Mr. Martin states: "Topsoil that has been eroded and washed out into the ocean will be of little value in helping to keep the meals coming along three times a day, 365 days a year. And we hope we don't have to go through the experience of the Chinese, the people in the hill country of Greece, and those in many other parts of the world before we realize that all our meals do depend on the soil."

"Farmers who till the soil are the custodians of the land. But all of us whether we are on the farm or not depend on the soil for our meals and we all have a responsibility to see to it that our land keeps turning out these meals."

The Agricultural Conservation Program was set up as a cooperative method of conserving the soil, Mr. Martin explains. Each farmer who carries out conservation practices and each consumer who has helped that farmer, is contributing to a program of "meal insurance." Through the ACP Program, erosion is being cut down and land is being kept in condition so that "it can keep turning out foods that make up the meals we take so much for granted because most of us haven't had to miss too many."

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

BRANNAN ISSUES INAUGURAL STATEMENT - "Democratically elected farmer-committees" were paid tribute in the first official statement of the new Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brannan. After Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge administered the oath of office, Secretary Brannan issued a statement which said, in part:

"The major job of American agriculture, as I see it, is to help build world peace and prosperity. This calls for maintaining a strong, productive agriculture. It is the primary responsibility of the Department of Agriculture to help farmers achieve that objective.

"Having helped to formulate and carry out present Department policies, I feel that we have been working in the right direction and that my job is to further and if possible to strengthen the work already under way..."

"The soil is the foundation of our individual and national life, and I shall do everything in my power, consistent with present-day conditions, to foster soil conservation. My idea of soil conservation includes the proper use and development of all agricultural resources — land, water, and forests..."

"Our conservation, price support, and credit measures, together with research and statistical services, add up to the best farm program any nation has yet developed. These measures can now serve as foundation stones for the development and effectuation of a long-range policy of 'organized, sustained, and realistic abundance'... A scientific approach to the problems of distribution is an essential part of our effort to maintain a strong domestic economy.

"I strongly favor the farmer-committee system of administration. The democratically elected farmer-committees have given invaluable service to agriculture and the entire Nation, and I know they will continue to do so....



"The duties of the Department call for the closest cooperative relationships with Land Grant Colleges, State Departments of Agriculture, and other State agencies, with farm organizations, with cooperatives, and other groups representing producers, consumers, and various business interests. It is my intent to maintain and strengthen all such cooperative relationships — in specific ways provided by law and in general ways as well."

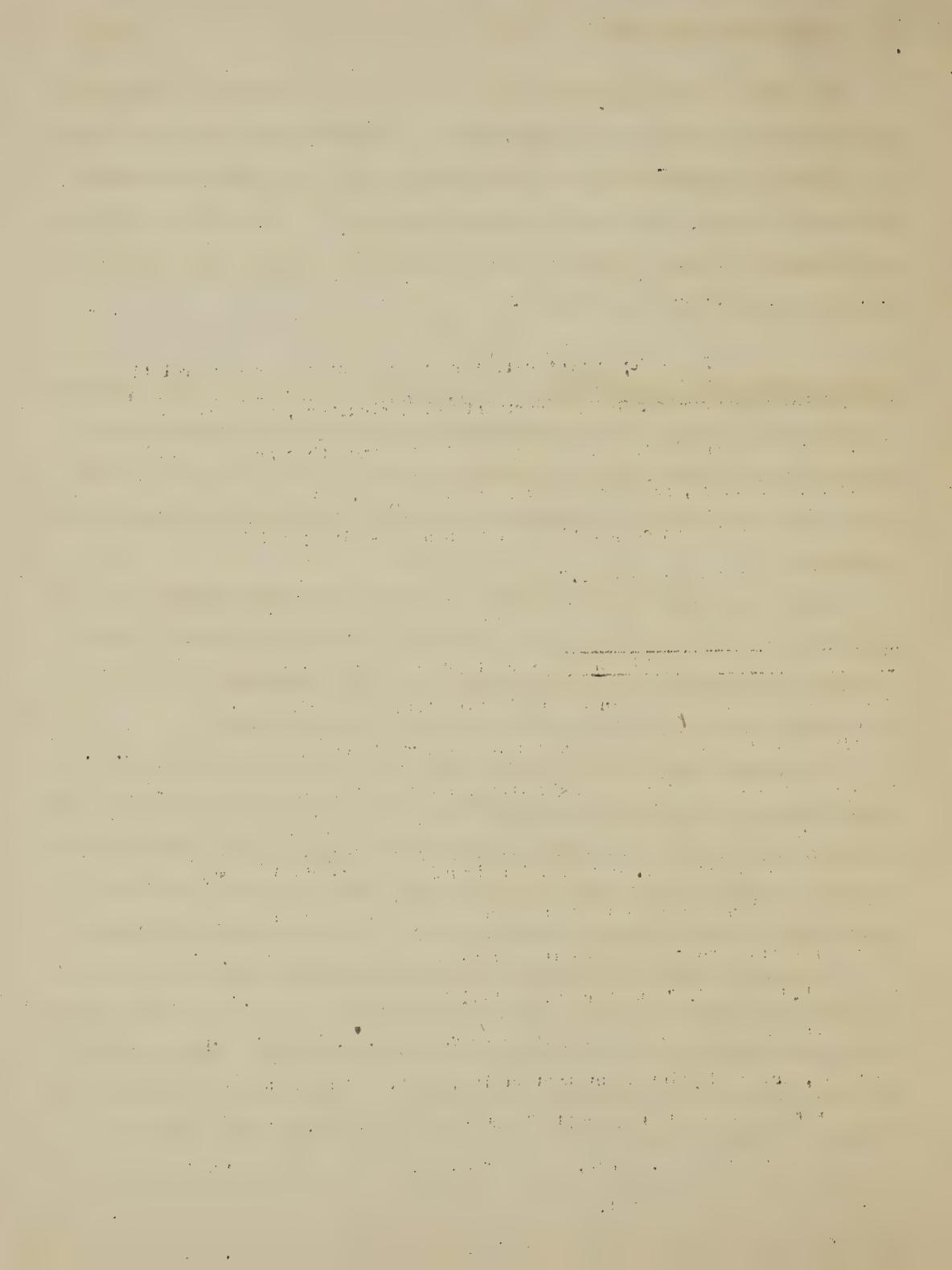
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DODD SPEAKS ON FOOD ASPECTS OF ERP - Real progress in improving the food situation of cooperating nations and in reestablishing their agriculture this year would greatly boost the entire European Recovery Program's chances for success, N. E. Dodd, then Under Secretary of Agriculture, recently told the Senate Appropriations Committee.

At the same time, Mr. Dodd cautioned against over-optimism, saying that the best those nations can hope to do this year with our help will only be a start toward restoring their diets, their health, and their agriculture. "It can be a good start," he said, "but there will still be a long way to go."

Testifying on the food commodities which the U. S. plans to export this year under ERP, Mr. Dodd pointed out that grains, meat, and fats and oils are the most important food and feed items still in short world supply. Other planned exports include oilcake and meal, sugar, dairy products, eggs, dried and fresh fruits, rice, pulses (beans and peas), tobacco, cotton, fertilizer, timber, and wool.

Referring to the still-disrupted distribution systems abroad, Mr. Dodd said that the elemental requirement for European recovery is to see to it that workers who produce and earn money can buy for their families minimum adequate quantities of food. The quality of the diet also needs to be improved; there is a great need for more of the protective foods such as milk, meat, fruits, and vegetables.



Because of the urgent food situation, however, farmers in those countries have been asked to postpone rebuilding their livestock industries and to produce food, grains and potatoes and other items for direct human consumption.

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CCC WOOL SELLING PRICES ADJUSTED - To increase commercial purchases of the 1948 wool clip direct from producers, selling prices of wool owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation have been revised. These changes put CCC selling prices more in line with recent increases in current market value of some grades of wool.

The new schedule provides for the following increases in 1948 Staple Territory and Texas graded wools: Fine, up 18 cents a clean pound; 1/2 blood, up 14 cents; 3/8 blood, up 10 cents; 1/4 blood, up 8 cents. Smaller increases are made for similar CCC-owned wools of the 1946 and 1947 clips. No changes are made in the same wools of the 1943 to 1945 clips, or in selling prices of low 1/4 blood and common and braid wools of all clips owned by CCC.

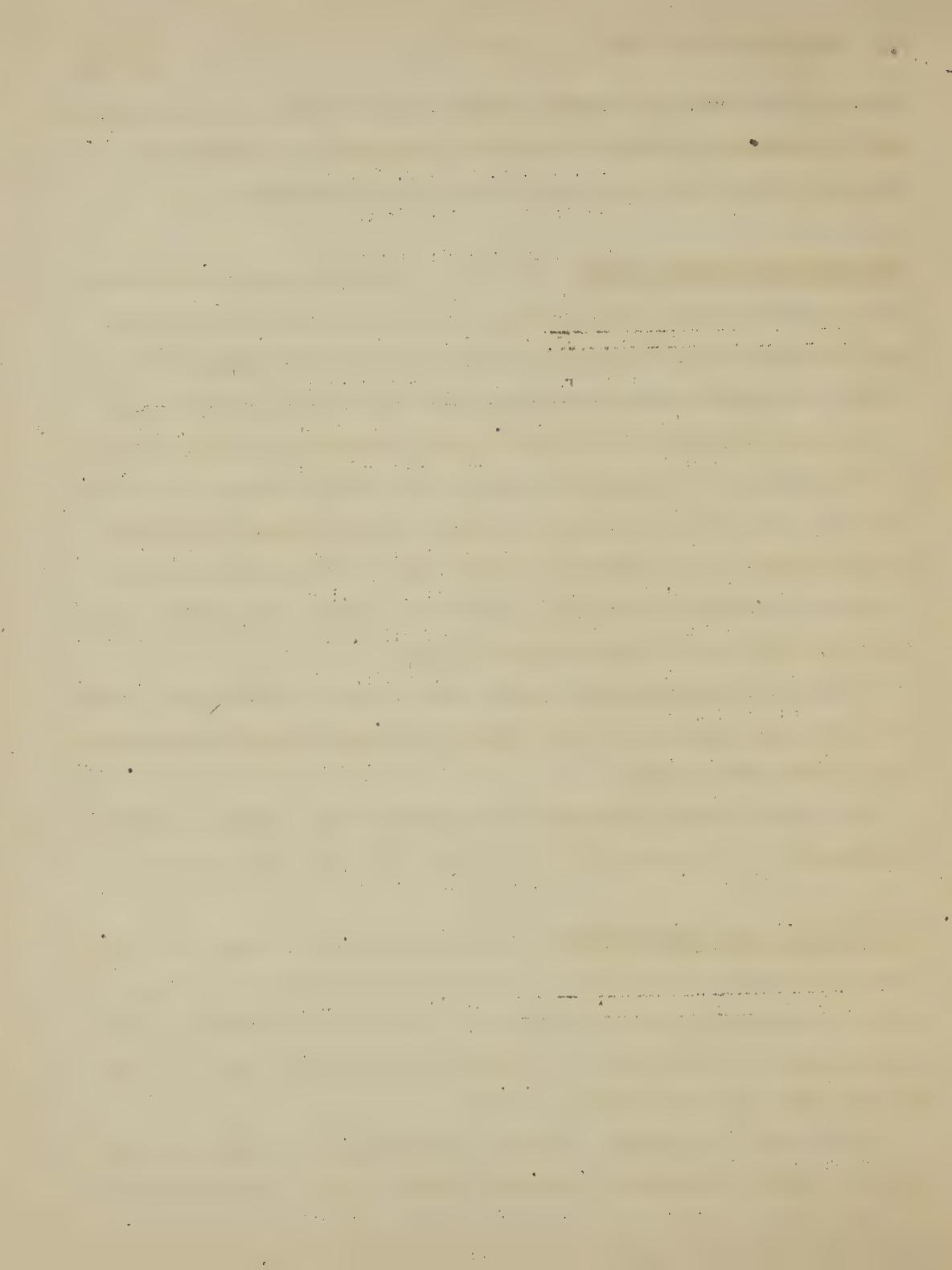
Increases averaging 2 cents a grease pound are made for "off" wools. Prices of scoured woolen type wools are not changed by the new schedule because such wools have not been moving freely.

New selling prices for pulled wools are expected to be announced shortly to equalize prices for comparable types and qualities in pulled and shorn wool.

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CONSERVATION A FARM-BY-FARM PROBLEM - It may be a terrace -- it may be an application of phosphate and the growing of more legumes and grasses -- or it may be a number of conservation practices are needed to keep soil from washing and blowing away and land from wearing out -- but whatever it is, it takes timely action by farmers on the land to get results.

In this way C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico FMA Committee, emphasizes the way the Agricultural Conservation Program operates. Every farmer in



every agricultural county in the United States and insular possessions may participate in this program of saving soil. And every farmer who does cooperate — and there are more than 3 million who do — carries out needed conservation practices on his own farm.

Every farm is a little different but the problems are a lot alike, says Mr. Hemphill. All over the United States there are farms similar to the Donald D. Delagrange farm in Ohio. This farm is located in the Wesfield township of Medina county — just a few miles from the Great Lakes and the Ohio river watershed.

The land is classified as silt loam and it is subject to erosion. It's up where floods begin and in the past the silt from this farm along with many others has helped build the great Mississippi river delta. From now on there will be little if any silt and run-off from the Delagrange farm.

Grass and clover with lime and phosphate to make them grow better is holding the soil. Green manure plowed under is putting humus into the soil so that it will absorb more of the water and hold together better. Contour strips are slowing down the run-off. Working together these conservation practices are saving a farm.

Mr. Delagrange says that if it had not been for the conservation program, his place would now be another abandoned farm. He says this also is true of the farms around him.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
State College, New Mexico

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

CONGRESS AUTHORIZES 1949 ACP - The House and Senate have agreed to authorize agricultural conservation payments for practices carried out in 1949, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of New Mexico State PMA Committee. Two hundred sixty two and one-half million dollars have been authorized for this purpose as compared with one hundred fifty million for the 1948 program, Mr. Hemphill continued.

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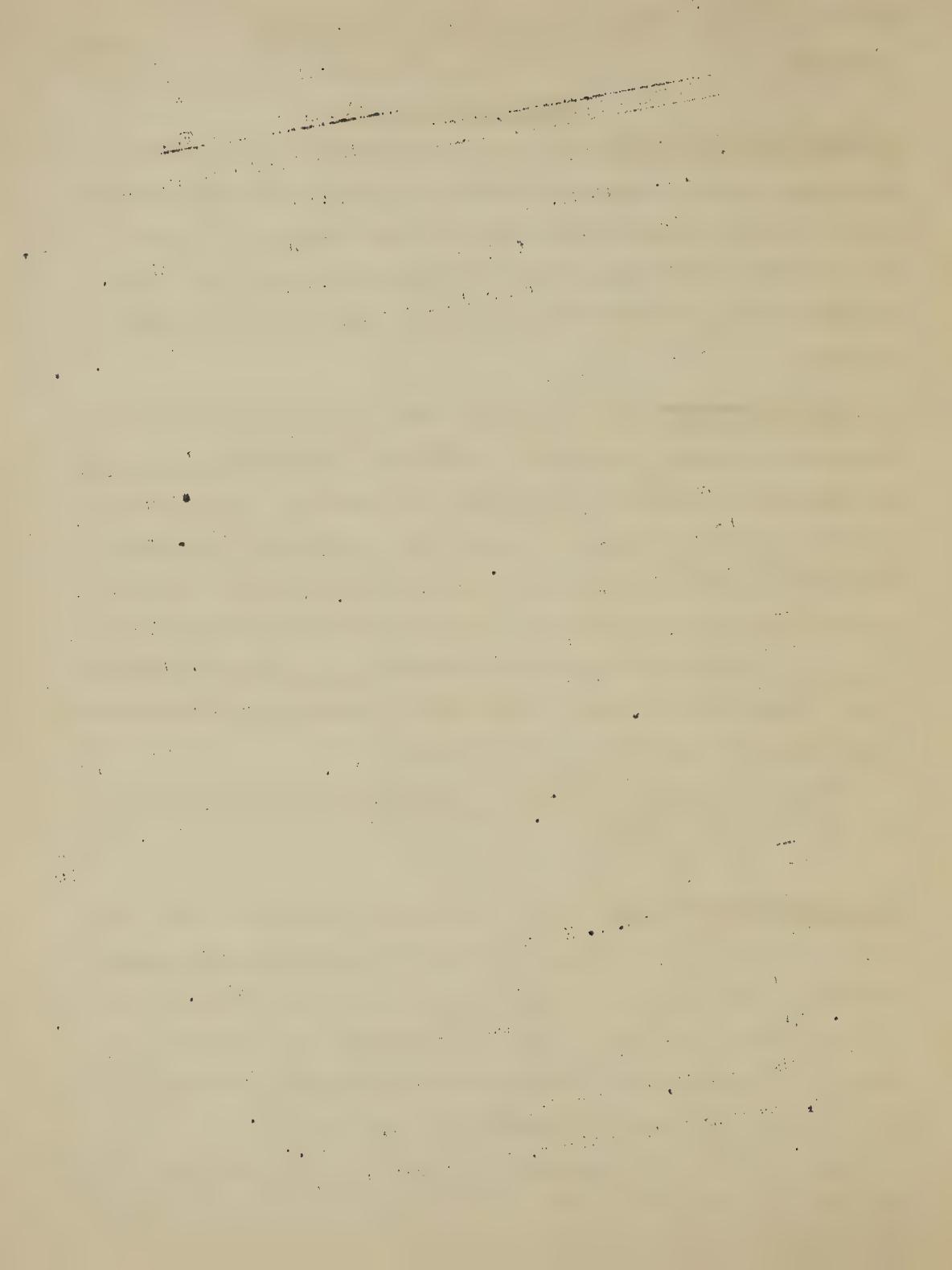
FAT SALVAGE COLLECTION - Waste kitchen fats are still critically needed in the manufacture of products for civilian or military use, according to \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman (or Member) of the \_\_\_\_\_ County ACA Committee. "We have learned that many housewives are anxious to turn in their used fats but do not know where to dispose of them," Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ said. "We are now making a survey to determine which stores and markets are collecting used fats," he continued. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ urges all fat salvage collectors in \_\_\_\_\_ County to inform his office of this fact if they have not previously been contacted by a representative of the County ACA office at \_\_\_\_\_ (town).

(Note to County ACA Secretaries: It is important that the above item be widely publicized. Please advise the State Office of the publicity you are able to attain.)

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IS YOUR FARM COMING OR GOING? - Are you driving your farm away from home? The question is raised by C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico PMA Committee. He points out that there may be a good fence around the place but unless the soil is treated right it can jump the fence in a good wind or crawl under in a good rain. "The fence may still be there but the farm may be gone. And the part first to go is the top soil, the part from which come the crops."

And, according to the chairman, good top soil is getting away from most farmers every year. On some farms -- where the land has been overworked and "underfed"



-- it may be getting away rapidly. Some soils erode easier than others. Some farms are on hillsides and gravity helps in the movement.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is helping farmers with soil and water conservation practices which do a lot to keep the farm home, the chairman points out. At this time of the year pasture improvement is specifically emphasized. He explains that it is not so much how many more cows can be kept on a pasture after phosphate has been used as it is how much of the pasture can be kept on the farm instead of having it wash or blow away.

Improving the pasture so that it will keep more cows is important but it is also important to tie the land down with grass and legumes so they will be there indefinitely and keep on producing.

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BREEDING MORE FALL PIGS SHOULD PAY - Farmers who plan to increase their fall pig crops in accordance with Department of Agriculture recommendations have good reason to believe their operations will be profitable, Santiago Marquez, Member of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, said today.

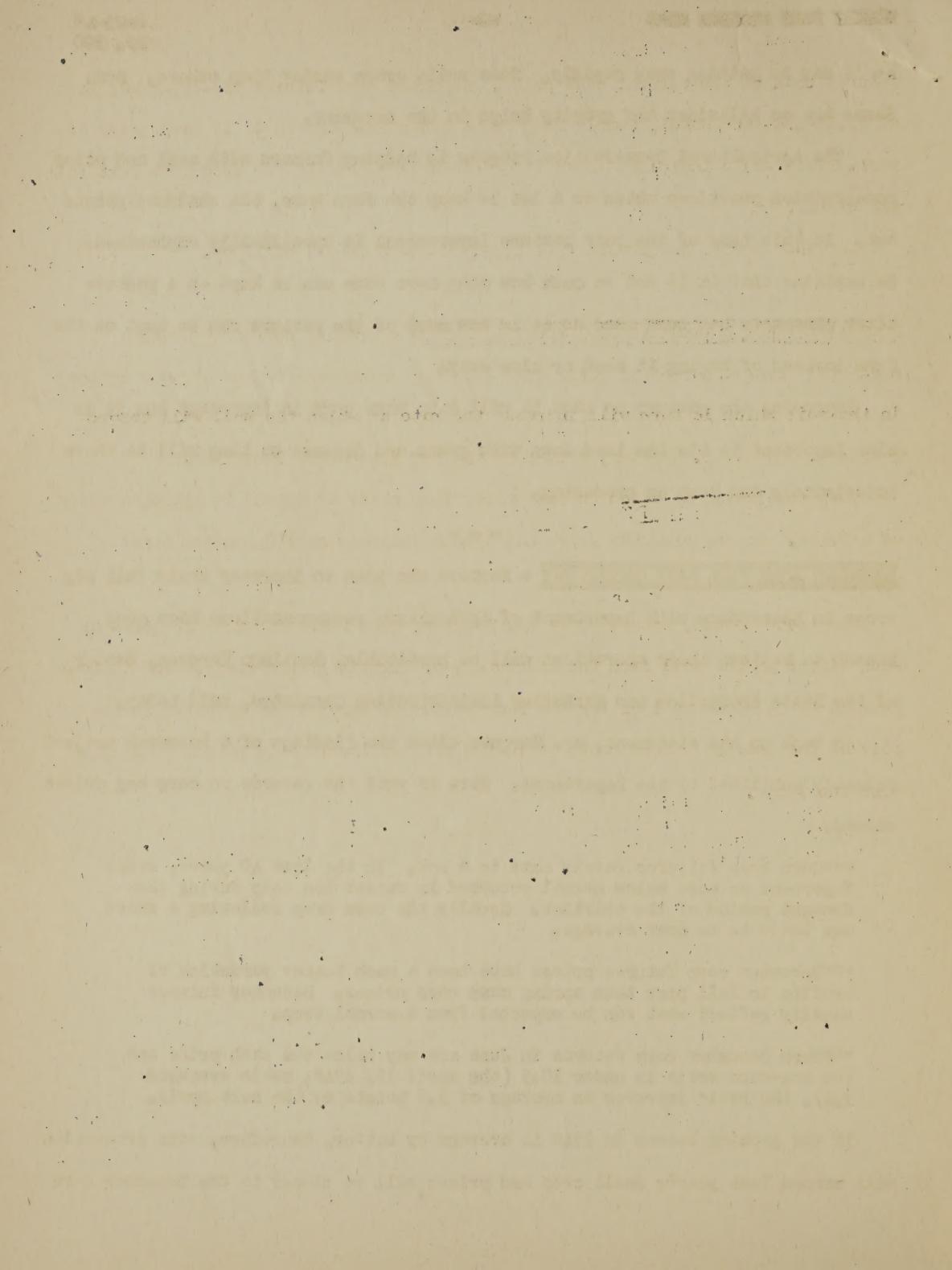
To back up his statement, Mr. Marquez cited the findings of a research project recently published by the Department. Here is what the records on corn hog prices showed:

\*\*\*Corn crop failures rarely come in a row. In the last 40 years, crops 8 percent or more below normal occurred in succession only during the drought period of the thirties. Usually the corn crop following a short one tends to be near average.

\*\*\*December corn futures prices have been a much better yardstick of profits in fall pigs than spring cash corn prices. December futures usually reflect what can be expected from a normal crop.

\*\*\*When December corn futures in June are way below the cash price and the hog-corn ratio is under 10.5 (the April 15, 1948, ratio averaged 9.4), the ratio improves an average of 3.8 points by the next April.

If the growing season in 1948 is average or better, therefore, corn production will exceed last year's small crop and prices will be closer to the December corn



futures than to the current cash price. December corn futures closed on May 24 at \$1.65-1/8 per bushel, nearly 25 percent lower than the April 15 farm price of corn. This would indicate a more favorable hog-corn ratio for producers next fall and winter.

In other words, breed more fall pigs. Chances are it will pay.

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MODERATELY GRAZED RANGE ABSORBS MOISTURE FASTER - Grazing shortgrass range moderately over a period of years will lead to an increase in the organic matter in the soil which in turn will increase the rate at which the soil will absorb moisture, says A. D. Woofter, Member of the New Mexico PMA Committee.

That conclusion is based on soil tests from plots of ground on opposite sides of a fence. On one side the grass has been moderately grazed, on the other, heavily grazed.

The tests showed, according to Mr. Woofter, that there was 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as much litter in the soil from the moderately or lightly grazed range. And it took from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as long for the same volume of water to be absorbed in the soil of the heavily grazed range as in the soil of the lightly grazed range just over the fence.

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